GUIDE TO THE OQ6 LAU FILE

[The OQ6 Lau file is concerned with the Malayo-Polynesian-speaking inhabitants of the Lau, or Eastern Group of islands in Fiji. This group consists of about 40 islands or clusters of islets and numerous reefs extending to the south and east of the main group of islands in Fiji. They constitute a frontier between Melanesian Fiji and Polynesian Tonga and the variation of physical types among the islands is quite noticeable. The majority of the islands are inhabited, with subsistence depending on raising yams, sweet potatoes, taro, manioc, and bananas, with fish, pigs, and fowl also being eaten. The main trade product of the islands is copra.

There are 10 sources, all of them in English, in the Lau file. There are four authors connected with this file. Arthur Hocart produced a basic monograph on the traditional culture (1: Hocart) after having spent four years on the island of Lakemba as a schoolmaster. Laura Thompson, a well-known cultural anthropologist, spent the years 1933-1934 on Lau and has produced a number of writings about the group, including sources 2: Thompson through 8: Thompson, this file. 2: Thompson is a basic monograph concerning the traditional culture of southern Lau while 3: Thompson describes the condition of the group in the 1930's. 4: Thompson through 8: Thompson are shorter articles discussing culture history, ecology, totemism, adzes and pottery. 9: Bryan, by a well-known biologist, is an unpublished manuscript containing data and maps

on each of the islands, obtained during a trip in 1924. 10: St. Johnston, by a British District Commissioner, presents an assortment of myths and legends, as well as some bits of folklore. While the file doesn't contain any large amount of material in depth, it should be sufficient for most comparative purposes. The file was processed between 1959 and 1965.]